Production cost of cotton

549. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production for cotton is increasing every year;

(b) what efforts Government is making to help the farmers to increase the productivity of cotton per hectare; and

(c) whether the Minimum Support Price is enough to cover the cost and profit for the farmers of different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Cost of production of cotton for all-India, in terms of weighted average A2 +FL cost *(viz.* all expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in land and imputed value of wages of family labour), during the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are given in the following Table:

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Weighted average A2 +FL cost (in Rs. per Quintal)	1549.01	1538.93	1528.11
MSP per quintal for medium staple (F-414/H-777/J34)	1760	1770	1800
MSP per quintal for short staple (H-4)	1980	1990	2030

Government of India fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic varieties of cotton for the country as a whole *viz.* medium staple *i.e.* F-414/H-777/J34 and long staple i.e. H-4 on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). The MSP for the two varieties are given in the Table above. While recommending the MSP, the CACP takes into account the relevant factors including the cost of production in the States. The basic objective of the Government price policy is to ensure remunerative prices to growers for their produce with a view to encouraging higher investment and production in relatively low cost areas, due to a higher margin of profit in such areas.

In order to increase production and productivity of cotton, the Government has launched the centrally sponsored shceme of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) since 2000-01 in major cotton growing States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme, assistance is provided through demonstration at farmer's field, training of farmers and extension workers as well as supply of inputs such as certified seeds/hybrids not older than 15 years, sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation systems to cotton growers.

Comprehensive Food Policy

†550. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.